

Traffic Dips Slightly, Study Says



Southland drivers are spending less time stuck in rush hour traffic, due in part to the recession and fuel prices—although Los Angeles still has the worst traffic in the nation.

According to the Urban Mobility Report, the average driver in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana area

idled in rush-hour traffic for 70 hours in 2007, down from 72 in 2006. Inland Empire drivers lost 44 hours, down from 45 the year prior.

The average US driver wastes 36 hours a year in traffic.

While most people would agree that less traffic is good news, the study's author, David Schrank, offered a bit of perspective: "This is a very small change. No one should expect to be driving the speed limit on their way to work because of this."

He noted that the average commute trip still takes 25% more time than it would without traffic tie-ups.



What Is Traffic Costing You?

	Los Angeles/ Orange	Inland Empire	Ventura
Hours a driver loses to traffic congestion each year	70 hours	44 hours	38 hours
Annual cost of delays	\$1,480 per person	\$983 per person	\$791 per person
Gallons of fuel wasted per traveler	53 gallons/year	35 gallons/year	27 gallons/year

What's Happening



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Need to find a Metro bus or rail route? Riders can now access Metro transit route and schedule data on Google. Just go to google.com/transit or access Google Maps at maps.google.com. Enter the date and time and Google will provide routing options. You don't need to search by exact address, and you can easily plan trips from landmarks, attractions and businesses.

Other Southland agencies that provide transit information on Google include Foothill Transit, Metrolink, Riverside Transit Agency and Thousand Oaks Transit.



Find a Carpool Buddy

Want to carpool to work but don't have a partner? You can get a free, instant list of people who live and work near you who may want to share the ride at CommuteSmart.info. If you want to try carpooling on a temporary basis, check out the web site's Ride Exchange, which posts vacancies (anywhere from a day to several weeks) in existing carpools and vanpools in Southern California.

